

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----039297 011911Z /41

O 011844Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2444
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
EUCOM VAIHINGEN GER IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 17456

EXDIS

MILITARY HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR EAID FR MOPS
SUBJECT: PARIS MEETING ON AFRICA

1. SUMMART: FOREIGN MINISTRY SECRETARY GENERAL HELD ORGANIZATIONAL PREVIEW OF JUNE 5 ZAIRE-SHABA MEETING WITH REPRESENTATION BY BRITISH, BELGIAN, FRG AMBASSADORS AND US (DCM). FRENCH ENVISAGE MEETING AS GENERIC LOOK AT ENTIRE AFRICAN THREAT AND TO CONCERT WESTERN AID INCLUDING SECURITY, TO LAY ON ARRANGEMENTS FOR RESPONSE TO FUTURE SHABA-TYPE DESTABILIZATIONS, AND TO ASSIST AN AFRICAN COLLECTIVE DEFENSE CAPABILITY. EMPHASIS IS LARGELY ON SECURITY, INCLUDING POSSIBILITY OF JUNE 5 COMMUNIQUE OR DECLARATION TO SERVE AS A DISSUASION TO FUTURE KATANGAN-CUBAN-SOVIET CAPERS. END SUMMART.

2. QUAI SECRERY GENERAL SOUTOU, WHO WILL HEAD FRENCH SECRET

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DELEGATION TO THE MONDAY ZAIRE MEETING, CONVOKED AMBASSADORS FROM THE PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES (US, FRG, BELGIUM, UK) TO DISCUSS HOW FRENCH SEE THE MEETING DEVELOPING.

3. SOUTOU EPLAINED THAT GOF SEES THREE ASPECTS TO THE MEETING: (1) A CONCERTATION ON WHAT EUROPE AND US AID

CAN DO TO HELP AFRICANS ASSURE THEIR SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT. HE STRESSED THAT WITHOUT SECURITY THERE IS NO DEVELOPMENT. SINCE ZAIRE IS THE INSTANT CASE, IT WILL BE THE MOST IMMEDIATE QUESTIONS UNDER THE RUBRIC, NAMELY HOW TO SECURE SECURITY AND HOW TO STOP THE HEMORRAGE IN THE ZAIRIAN ECONOMY. HE INDICATED THE FRENCH PLANNING AND HE ASKED FOR BELGIAN PARTICIPATION IN A MILITARY BRIEFING ON WHAT WAS FOUND IN SHABARE ARMAMENTS, TRAINING AND PARTICIPATION ON THE KATANGAN SIDE.

4. SECOND BROAD TOPIC WILL INCLUDE WHAT MEETING PERCEIVES AS APPROPRIATE WESTERN RESPONSE TO ANY FUTURE SHABA-TYPE DESTABILIZATION. THIRD TOPIC WILL BE CONSIDERATION OF APPROPRIATE EURO-AMERICAN AID TO A COLLECTIVE OF AFRICAN COUNTRIES WHO ARE ORGANIZING THEIR MUTUAL DEFENSE, NOT AS AN INTEGRATED MILITARY ALLIANCE BUT RATHER AS DESIGNATED TROOP UNITS IN EACH COUNTRY AVAILABLE FOR FIRE BRIGADE RESPONSE.

5. ON ECONOMIC TOPIC, WHICH WAS CLEARLY PLAYING SECOND FIDDLE IN FRENCH THINKING, HE NOTED THAT FROMENT-MEURICE, QUAI DIRECTOR FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, WOULD BE MEMBER OF THE DELEGATION AND WELCOMED INFORMAL WORD THAT UNDER SECRETARY COOPER MIGHT ATTEND. HE NOTED THAT THE 14 MONTHS GAINED BY THE MOROCCAN EFF-
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ORT IN APRIL 1977 HAD NOT BEEN MADE USE OF IN REHABILITATING THE ZAIRIAN ECONOMY. SOUTOU SUGGESTED THAT ALL MEANS FOR IMPROVING THE IDENTIFICATION AND RECOGNITION OF INDIVIDUAL WESTERN AID EFFORTS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED, INCLUDING ALSO THE GISCARD FUND.

6. TURNING TO QUESTION OF PRESS COVERAGE OF THE JUNE 5 MEETING, SOUTOU EXPRESSED STRONG VIEW FOR A COMMUNIQUE OR DECLARATION WHICH WOULD DEMONSTRATE WESTERN WILL AND READINESS TO RESPOND TO ZAIRIAN AND ANY OTHER DESTABILIZATIONS. STRESSING THIS WAS PERSONAL VIEW, HE LAID OUT FRENCH BELIEF THAT THERE IS NEED TO REASSURE WESTERN CIVILIAN TECHNICIANS IN ZAIRE TO KEEP THEM THERE AND VIABLE) AND TO DISSUADE FUTURE INCURSIONS. PUBLICITY IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF BOTH REASSURANCE AND DISSUATION, HE EMPHASIZED HE ALSO

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AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

EUCOM VAIHINGEN GER IMMEDIATE

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MENTIONED THE DETERRENT AFFECT OF THE POSSIBILITY THAT
FRENCH TROOPS COULD RETURN IN THE FUTURE.

7. ASSEMBLY OF RELIABLE AFRICAN TROOP CONTINGENTS IN
SHABA TO REPLACE FRENCH AND BELGIANS WAS MENTIONED
ONLY IN GENERAL TERMS. TO DCM'S QUERY WHETHER
AFRICAN PARTICIPANTS HAD INDICATED ADHERENCE, HE REPLIED
MOROCCO AND AT LEAST THREE OTHERS WERE FIRM BUT DEFERRED
FULL DISCUSSION UNTIL JUNE 5 MEETING. TO FURTHER US
PROBE WHETHER GOF ENVISAGED FRENCH PARATROOPERS RE-
ANING AT LEAST THROUGH WEEK OF JUNE 5 AND UNTIL
AFRICAN REPCEMENTS ARE ON THE SCENE, HE REPLIED IN THE
AFFIRMATIVE. COMMENT: IT APPEARS THAT FRENCH MAY BE
PLANNING ONLY LIMITED EARLY WITHDRAWALS OF PARATROOPERS,
POSSIBLY IN TIME TO BE GREETED BY GISCARD ON HIS THREE-
DAY TOUR OF CORSICA JUNE 7-9.

8. SOUTOU INDICATED PRIVATELY TO US THAT FRENCH WOULD
RESPOND TO OUR QUESTIONS REGARDING FRENCH RETROGRADE
MOVEMENTS AND AFRICAN REPLACEMENTS, WHICH WE HAD
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PASSED TO FRANCOIS-FONCET, IN A SEPARATE CHANNEL.

9. IT WAS CLEAR FROM SOUTOU'S PRESENTATION THAT ONLY THE FIVE COUNTRIES PRESENT -- FRANCE, UK, BELGIUM, FRG, US -- WERE EXPECTED TO ATTEND THE MEETING. DELEGATIONS ARE NOT YET FIRM EXCEPT FOR FRENCH AND BELGIAN, AND SOUTOU ASKED THAT OTHERS BE PHONED TO QUAI IN THE COURSE OF FRIDAY. FRENCH DELEGATION WILL BE SECRETARY GENERAL SOUTOU, DIRECTOR AFRICAN AND MALAGASY AFFAIRS GEORGY, ELYSEE AFRICAN ADVISOR JOURNIAC, DIRECTOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS FROMENT-MEURICE AND A NOTETAKER FROM GEORGY'S BUREAU. BELGIANS WILL BE CAHEN AND ONGELINXX FROM MINISTER'S CABINET, PLUS LEBRUN AND BELGIAN POLITICAL COUNSELOR HERE IN PARIS. NO CHANGE IN FRG AND UK DELEGATION LEADERSHIP BUT OTHER MEMBERS NOT YET IDENTIFIED.

10. BRITAIN REQUESTED THAT MEETING BEGIN AT 11:30 TO SIMPLIFY THEIR TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS AND, ABSENT PROTEST, THIS WAS GENERALLY ACCEPTED, ALTHOUGH SOUTOU NOTED THAT THE LATER THE START THE LATER THE ADJOURNMENT. FOLLOWING 11:30 SESSION A WORKING LUNCH WILL BE HOSTED BY SOUTOU AND THEN FURTHER SESSION AS LATE AS NECESSARY.

11. DCM DREW SOUTOU'S ATTENTION PRIVATELY TO DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S AND SECRETARY'S DIFFERING EMPHASES ON THE JUNE 5 MEETING, NOTING THAT SECRETARY HAD PLACED THE EMPHASIS ON PREPARATION FOR THE JUNE 13-14 BRUSSELS ECONOMIC DISCUSSIONS WHICH HAD SUBSEQUENTLY BEEN ENDORSED BY GUIRINGAUD.
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